

The Barr Foundation Transportation Issues Survey
 Topline Results
 Statewide Survey of 1,200 Massachusetts Registered Voters
 Field Dates: March 15-25, 2019

Which modes of travel do you use regularly to get around? Please check all that apply.

Drive alone	82%
Drive or ride with others	50%
Walk	41%
Take the MBTA subway (Red, Orange, Blue, Green, Silver lines)	19%
Take a taxi, Uber or Lyft	19%
Take a MBTA or other public bus	15%
Take the commuter rail	9%
Ride a bicycle	7%
Other	2%
Take a ferry	1%
Take a corporate or private shuttle	1%

During the average week, how often do you use public transportation (public buses, subways, trains, or ferries)?

All of my trips	5%
Most of my trips	11%
Some of my trips	8%
Just a few trips	15%
None of my trips	60%
Unsure	2%

Asked of those who use public transportation for "just a few" or "none" of their trips.

If you wanted to take public transit, how many of your trips start and end in places accessible by transit (public bus, subway, trains, or ferries)?

All of my trips	8%
Most of my trips	12%
Some of my trips	13%
Just a few trips	20%
None of my trips	40%
Unsure	8%

Following asked of those who did not answer “none of my trips” – ie, those with some access to transit.

How much of an obstacle is each of the following to your using public transportation for more of your travel?

<i>Order randomized; sorted by “major obstacle” for display.</i>	A major obstacle	A minor obstacle	Not an obstacle	Unsure
I prefer to have my car for errands or other trips	41%	18%	36%	4%
Public transportation does not run frequently enough	30%	42%	22%	7%
Public transportation isn’t reliable enough	22%	45%	27%	6%
I don’t know what routes to take to get where I need to on public transportation	21%	33%	41%	5%
Public transportation is too expensive	15%	36%	43%	6%
I don’t feel safe on public transportation	11%	34%	52%	3%

How much of a priority do you think each of the following issues should be for state government here in Massachusetts?

<i>Order randomized; sorted by “major priority” for display.</i>	Major priority	Minor priority	Not a priority	Unsure
Growing jobs and the economy	68%	26%	4%	2%
Improving public education	67%	27%	5%	2%
Addressing the high cost of housing	65%	28%	6%	2%
Keeping taxes as low as possible	64%	28%	6%	2%
Improving the state’s transportation system	60%	32%	6%	2%
Addressing climate change	49%	31%	18%	3%

How would you rate the condition of the road system here in Massachusetts, including the local roads, highways, bridges, and tunnels?

Excellent	4%
Good	19%
Fair	46%
Poor	30%
Unsure	1%

How would you rate the condition of public transportation here in Massachusetts, including subways, trains, buses, and ferries?

Excellent	4%
Good	29%
Fair	46%
Poor	15%
Unsure	7%

Over the last five years, has it become easier or more difficult to get around your part of the state?

It’s gotten much easier	4%
It’s gotten a little easier	13%
It’s stayed about the same	44%
It’s gotten a little harder	25%
It’s gotten much harder	13%
Unsure	2%

Over the next five years, do you think it will become easier or more difficult to get around your part of the state?

Will get much easier	5%
Will get a little easier	14%
Will stay about the same	38%
Will get a little harder	24%
Will get a lot harder	15%
Unsure	4%

How much would you support or oppose the Commonwealth raising new money to invest in the Massachusetts transportation system, including improving roads, bridges and public transportation?

Strongly support	35%
Somewhat support	45%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	6%
Unsure	4%

Right now, cities and towns in Massachusetts cannot hold votes to raise local taxes to pay for transportation projects. Would you support or oppose a new state law which would allow cities, towns, or regions to hold votes to raise local or regional taxes to pay for transportation projects?

Strongly support	19%
Somewhat support	36%
Somewhat oppose	19%
Strongly oppose	16%
Unsure	10%

Massachusetts and other northeast states are developing a regional plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. The program would be modeled on one that has successfully reduced emissions from power plants in the region.

Under the plan, gasoline importers would be charged a fee based on the amount of pollution their fuels produce. States would then invest those fees as to make their transportation systems better and cleaner. Potential uses might include improving existing roads and public transportation; expanding public transportation to more people and places; encouraging walking and biking; giving consumer incentives to buy electric vehicles; and building charging stations for electric vehicles.

Would you support or oppose Massachusetts joining with other northeast state in a program like the one described above?

Strongly support	27%
Somewhat support	41%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	11%
Don't Know / Refused	9%

Thinking about transportation specifically, how much of a priority do you think each of the following issues should be for state government here in Massachusetts?

<i>Order randomized; sorted by "major priority" for display.</i>	Major priority	Minor priority	Not a priority	Unsure
Improving highways, roads, and bridges	75%	22%	1%	1%
Reducing traffic congestion	68%	27%	4%	2%
Making transportation safer for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists	64%	29%	5%	2%
Improving public transportation like buses, trains and subways	57%	37%	5%	2%
Reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from transportation	46%	38%	13%	3%
Laying the groundwork for future technologies like self-driving and electric vehicles	24%	43%	30%	3%

Which is closest to your view of traffic around the Greater Boston region?

It will always be a serious problem	55%
With the right policies, it could get much better	35%
It is not really a problem	3%
Unsure	7%

Which is closest to your view of the condition and operations of the MBTA?

It will always be a serious problem	19%
With the right policies, it could get much better	64%
It is not really a problem	7%
Unsure	10%

In the past few months, have delays on the roads or public transportation caused you to...

<i>Order randomized; sorted by "yes" for display.</i>	Yes	No	Unsure
Leave earlier or later to avoid the busiest times of day	67%	30%	3%
Become stressed, angry or frustrated	63%	34%	3%
Be late for appointments, like going to the doctor or picking up or dropping off from daycare	39%	57%	3%
Be late for work	37%	60%	3%
Consider changing jobs to get a better commute	21%	73%	6%
Consider moving out of your area altogether	18%	75%	6%

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Public transportation helps get cars off the roads. Without it, traffic around Greater Boston would be much worse.

Strongly agree	42%
Somewhat agree	44%
Somewhat disagree	6%
Strongly disagree	3%
Unsure	4%

Which statement is closer to your own view?

Action is urgently needed to improve the state's transportation system	66%
The state's transportation system is working pretty well as is	21%
Unsure	13%

Now we'd like to ask you about some ideas that have been proposed to improve transportation in Massachusetts.

How much would you support or oppose increasing the frequency of commuter rail trains running to and from Boston to every 15 to 30 minutes throughout the day, at night and on weekends?

Strongly support	33%
Somewhat support	47%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	2%
Unsure	9%

How much would you support or oppose giving drivers a discount on tolls if they drive outside of rush hour, to reduce traffic congestion?

Strongly support	37%
Somewhat support	45%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	3%
Unsure	8%

Which one of the following best describes your work situation?

Employed full time	51%
Employed part time	14%
Not currently employed	33%
Prefer not to say	2%

The following asked only of those who said they were not currently employed.

Are you...

A student	4%
A homemaker	14%
Retired	62%
Temporarily unemployed	15%
Prefer not to say	5%

The following asked only of those who were employed full- or part-time or were a student.

On an average day, how long is your one-way commute to work or school?

15 minutes or less	30%
More than 15 minutes to 30 minutes	26%
More than 30 minutes to 45 minutes	23%
More than 45 minutes to an hour	11%
More than an hour	7%
I do not commute to work or school	4%

Do you have any children under age 18 in your household?

Yes	22%
No	77%
Prefer not to say	1%

Do you currently own your home, or rent?

Own	64%
Rent	33%
Prefer not to say	3%

How many cars, if any, does your household own?

None	7%
One	37%
Two	41%
Three or more	15%

DEMOGRAPHICS

Party Identification

Democrat	34%
Republican	14%
Independent / Other	48%
Prefer not to say	4%

Race and Ethnicity

White	81%
Black	5%
Hispanic or Latino	6%
Asian	5%
Some other race	1%
More than one race	2%
Prefer not to say	<1%

Age

18-29	18%
30-44	23%
45-59	26%
60+	32%
Prefer not to say	<1%

Gender

Male	47%
Female	53%
Neither / some other gender	<1%
Prefer not to say	<1%

Education

High School or less	32%
Some college, no degree	24%
College graduate (BA/BS)	26%
Advanced degree	18%
Prefer not to say	<1%

About the Poll

These results are based on a survey of 1,200 Massachusetts registered voters. Responses were collected via online survey interviewing March 15-25, 2019. Final survey data was weighted to known and estimated population parameters for the state's registered voters by age, gender, race, education, geography, and party. This project was sponsored by The Barr Foundation.